

Tips on “Beware of Employment Traps”

Tip 1

“Careful on choices. Watch out for attractive offer”

Don't hasten to make decisions simply because summer jobs are temporary. Be careful in taking up jobs with exceptionally high salary when job requirements and duties are relatively simple, or recruitment process is too casual.

Tip 2

“Take care of personal safety and personal data”

Refrain from attending job interviews outside employer's premises unless good reasons are provided. Be careful about personal safety when attending job interviews. Ask a relative or a friend to accompany you if you have to attend an interview at an unfamiliar or a remote place.

Don't be rash to give important personal information and documents such as the ID card number or PINs of ATM cards to others.

Tip 3

“Know your employer and study employment contract well”

Before accepting an offer, check the company's background and understand its business. Learn your rights under the Employment Ordinance and study well each term in the employment contract before signing. Persons who sign service contracts on a self-employed basis or as non-employees shall have no employer-employee relationship with the contracting company. They will not be entitled to the protection under the Employment Ordinance.

Tip 4

“Don't yield to persuasion to take up different job”

Don't yield to persuasion if you are asked to take up posts or duties different from the ones described in the job advertisements or during interviews, especially when you lack the requisite job knowledge. It is not necessary for you to make payment to get the job offer. Bear in mind that you are paid to work. Be alert if you are asked to pay fees for training courses or beauty treatments to get employed.

Tip 5

“Be informed of current affairs. Ready to seek help”

Keep abreast of current affairs and beware of the tricks of swindlers. If you have doubts or you have been cheated, seek assistance from your family members, teachers or relevant government departments as soon as possible.

Addresses and Telephone Numbers for Enquiries

When looking for summer jobs, students may have questions and doubts, such as vacancies available, the provisions of the Employment Ordinance and occupational safety, etc. Here are some useful telephone numbers and addresses for enquiries:

Labour Department's Offices

Labour Department's Job Centres:

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| Hong Kong East Job Centre 34/F, Revenue Tower, 5 Gloucester Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong (Exit A5, Wan Chai MTR Station) | 2591 1318 |
| Hong Kong West Job Centre 4/F, Western Magistracy Building, 2A Pokfulam Road, Sai Ying Pun, Hong Kong (Near Western Police Station) | 2552 0131 |
| North Point Job Centre 12/F, North Point Government Offices, 333 Java Road, North Point, Hong Kong (Exit C, Quarry Bay MTR Station) | 2114 6868 |
| Kowloon East Job Centre 1/F, Trade and Industry Tower, 3 Concorde Road, Kowloon (Opposite to Mikiki Shopping Mall and Cognitio College) | 2338 9787 |
| Kowloon West Job Centre 9/F, Cheung Sha Wan Government Offices, 303 Cheung Sha Wan Road, Kowloon (Exit C1, Shamshuipo MTR Station) | 2150 6397 |
| Kwun Tong Job Centre 10/F, Kowloon East Government Offices, 12 Lei Yue Mun Road, Kwun Tong, Kowloon (Exit D4, Kwun Tong MTR Station) | 2342 0486 |
| Shatin Job Centre 2/F, Shatin Government Offices, 1 Sheung Wo Che Road, Shatin, New Territories (Exit B, Shatin MTR Station) | 2158 5553 |
| Tai Po Job Centre 3/F, Tai Po Government Offices, 1 Ting Kok Road, Tai Po, New Territories (Exit B, Tai Wo MTR Station) | 2654 1429 |
| Sheung Shui Job Centre Units 2001-2006, Level 20, Landmark North, 39 Lung Sum Avenue, Sheung Shui, New Territories (Exit A4, Sheung Shui MTR Station) | 3692 4532 |
| Tsuen Wan Job Centre 2/F, Tsuen Wan Government Offices, 38 Sai Lau Kok Road, Tsuen Wan, New Territories (Exit A, Tsuen Wan MTR Station) | 2417 6197 |
| Tuen Mun Job Centre G/F, Victory Building, 3 Tsing Min Path, Tuen Mun, New Territories (Near Light Rail Prime View Station) | 2463 9967 |
| Tung Chung Job Centre Unit 211A, 2/F, Yat Tung Shopping Centre, Yat Tung Estate, Tung Chung, Lantau Island, New Territories (Near Yat Tung Bus Terminus) | 3428 2943 |
| Employment in One-stop Unit 401, 4/F, Tin Ching Amenity and Community Building, Tin Ching Estate, Tin Shui Wai, New Territories (Near Light Rail Tin Yuet Station) | 3692 5750 |

Labour Department's Recruitment Centres

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| Recruitment Centre for the Catering Industry G/F, Revenue Tower, 5 Gloucester Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong (Exit A5, Wan Chai MTR Station) | Job Seeker Hotline 2594 7800 |
| Recruitment Centre for the Retail Industry G/F, Revenue Tower, 5 Gloucester Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong (Exit A5, Wan Chai MTR Station) | Job Seeker Hotline 2594 7833 |
| Construction Industry Recruitment Centre 1/F, CIC Kowloon Bay Training Centre, 44 Tai Yip Street, Kowloon Bay, Kowloon (Exit A, Kowloon Bay MTR Station) | Job Seeker Hotline 3428 3303 |
| Labour Department's Occupational Safety & Health Branch (Occupational Safety) 14/F, Harbour Building, 38 Pier Road, Central, Hong Kong | 2559 2297 |
| Labour Department's Occupational Safety & Health Branch (Occupational Health) 15/F, Harbour Building, 38 Pier Road, Central, Hong Kong | 2852 4041 |
| Labour Department's Employees' Compensation Division & Labour Relations Division Enquiry Hotline * (the hotline is handled by *1823 *) | 2717 1771* |

Interactive Employment Service Website: www.jobs.gov.hk

Other Departments or Organizations

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| Hong Kong Police Force Commercial Crime Bureau's Enquiry Hotline | 2860 5012 |
| Consumer Council Consumer Complaint & Enquiry Hotline | 2929 2222 |
| Social Welfare Department Enquiries on organizations granted with Public Subscription Permit | 2832 4311 |
| Education Bureau Careers Guidance Service (including information on overseas studies) | 3698 4126 |
| Hong Kong Association of Careers Masters & Guidance Masters | 2671 1722 |

A Guide for Students Seeking Summer Jobs 暑期工作錦囊

Foreword

Every year, many students look for summer jobs in the vacation hoping to gain some pocket money and working experience. Students having little experience in life and are eager to seek jobs will easily fall prey to scammers who set up devious employment traps to cheat students of money, steal their personal data or even bait them into illegal activities.

Unfamiliar with the recruitment process and procedures, students should stay alert and vigilant when seeking jobs. Before taking up any job offer, they have to assess the job nature, their own capabilities and suitability for the job. Never be baited by job offers of too good salary or one will easily get cheated of money or misled to committing crimes.

Furthermore, many students, as fresh job seekers are willing to try or to take up any jobs that may come by. They must however take heed of the prime importance of industrial safety and avoid taking up dangerous work, such as construction work, operation of heavy machinery, handling of chemicals and corrosive substance as well as work processes involving extremely high temperatures, etc. They should use safety equipment provided by employers and strictly follow all safety regulations at work.

Little Summer Job Detectives Remind You:

Cautious Selection of Jobs Brings a Pleasant Job Experience.

Watch out for Common Employment Traps

1 Unlawful Work

Many criminal gangs opt to hire young people in carrying out various criminal activities, such as drug trafficking, selling pirated or counterfeit goods, unlawful handling of parallel-imported goods, illegal fund raising, debt collection for loan sharks, and money laundering through their bank account so as to make young people their scapegoat in criminal investigations. You should be cautious and avoid such scams. Or else you would get into trouble and may end up with a criminal record that ruins your future.



2 Vice Traps



Don't assume vice traps are easy to spot. The swindlers would make use of attractive terms such as "High pay jobs and no working experience required", "Opportunity for free overseas travelling" in the advertisements to attract innocent young job seekers. The job seekers will realise that the "real" job nature involves vice activities only after signing the contracts. To avoid such traps, you should enquire about the job duties clearly and read the contract terms carefully before signing the contract.

3 Theft of Personal Data

Under the pretext of recruitment, the culprits solicit personal data from job seekers, such as information on identity card, bank accounts and credit cards. The personal data obtained will be used to make money for the culprits through application for loan from banks or financial institutions in the name of the job seekers, or even unauthorised online transfer of money from job seekers' accounts.

Watch out whenever you are required to provide personal data in the course of job hunting, especially when it is made through online channels. Assess whether the requests for personal data are reasonable, or the information required are excessive to avoid any misuse of your personal data.



4 Luring Job Seekers to Pursue Further Studies

If you are told to pay fees for training classes or any courses in order to obtain the qualifications or skills required for a post that you applied, you should be alert as this may be a bogus recruitment to cheat job seekers' money.



5 Talent Scout Scams

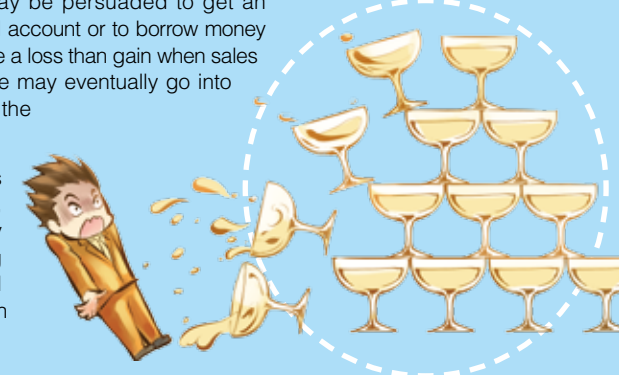
Some people pose themselves as representatives from entertainment companies, modelling agencies or dubbing companies. They may approach internet surfers or passers-by, and convince them that they have great potential to be performing artists, models, dubbing artists, etc., thereby inducing them to pay fees for training classes, beauty services or fitness courses; or even audition, referral fee or deposits. It could turn out that no job is arranged and the money paid will not be refunded.



6 Pyramid Selling Schemes

Some direct sales companies first attract job seekers by advertising a variety of handsome pay posts. Then they persuade the job seekers during job interviews to buy their goods and join the sales business. Operating by hierarchical sharing of commission, these companies later require job seekers to recruit new scheme members (including their relatives and friends). Profits are made mainly through recruiting lower-tier staff rather than selling products, forming a pyramid of extortion down the tiers. Job seekers may be persuaded to get an overdraft through their credit card account or to borrow money from financial institutions. It is more a loss than gain when sales are sluggish subsequently. Some may eventually go into bankruptcy if they fail to repay the loan and interest.

If you find that the job involves attending recruitment talks, prepaying overpriced goods by job seekers, hierarchical sharing of commission, etc., you should stay alert for these are common features of pyramid selling scams.



7 Financial and Investment Scams

Some swindlers pose themselves as operators of foreign exchange investment companies and offer a handsome pay to recruit junior positions such as clerk, copyist and cleaners, etc. After joining the company, various investment products with allegedly high return would be introduced to the job seekers. Subsequently they may be persuaded to make investment or to take up some other investment posts and led their families and friends to make investment. In the end, swindlers drain all their money by claiming that there is a loss in investments.



8 Charging Unreasonable Fees

Some swindlers use the pretext of recruitment to impose unreasonable fees and charges on job seekers, such as registration fee, data processing fee, administration fee and documentation fee, etc. Think twice and discuss with your friends and family members if you are asked to pay fees of any kind to get a job.

9 Fraud Online Recruitment

As online recruitment has become more popular, some scammers post deceptive recruitment messages through discussion forums, social media or smart phone apps to cheat job seekers of property or personal data. There have been online advertisements of part-time jobs that promise to pay job seekers for buying Game Cards. Upon receipt of the serial number and PIN number of the Game Card from the job seekers, the scammers would sell the Game Cards for money and disappear into thin air, leaving the job seekers with unrecoverable losses.

Some culprits recruit young people to carry out unlawful activities on the internet. You should be vigilant of online recruitment advertisements. Verify the identity of the recruiting companies as well as the information in the recruitment advertisements before job applications.

